

**Page Denied**

MAR 20, 1966

# Own Weapon Hit Nixon, Ex-Aide Says

## Cuban Invasion Plans Kept Secret for Security: Klein

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (UPI)—Richard M. Nixon's former press secretary said yesterday that Nixon's desire to keep the secret of Cuban invasion plans caused him to be "clubbed" by President Kennedy in the 1960 campaign.

Herbert G. Klein, press secretary for Nixon during the 1960 presidential campaign and now editor of the San Diego Union, said Nixon had wanted to make Cuban intervention a campaign issue but did not do so for security reasons.

When Kennedy came out for Cuban intervention, Klein said, "The effect was that in a crucial period of the campaign Mr. Nixon was being clubbed with his own weapon. And, because he had a strong sense of his responsibility to protect security, he had no choice but to argue against Mr. Kennedy," and thus align his policy to previously originated himself."

KLEIN'S VERSION of the incident appeared in Sunday edition of The Union.

He called it a "story we at the Nixon staff couldn't tell during the 1960 campaign."

"At the time, Nixon wanted to sue," he said. "When the vice president had discussed openly in his news conferences and written press statements the week before the election,

Klein said, "our campaign staff knew about the secret planning trained for an invasion of Cuba."

"Frequently we discussed among ourselves the handling of the Cuban issue within security bounds," Klein said. "We heard the rumor that the Kennedy staff wanted the beach assault. We didn't believe before the election who suggested this was. This referred to my Oct. 20, Mr. Kennedy proposed direct intervention."

"FOR THE vice president and his staff, this angered elements of the campaign took place on Oct. 20, on the eve of the fourth television debate between Nixon and Kennedy. We were in New York when Mr. Kennedy came in this day made a speech which directly outlined the secret program which was being worked out—and which we had, for security reasons, kept secret."

Here is what Klein said had happened:

"First: On July 10, 1960, then head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mr. Kennedy had concurred in a statement that he had been briefed by him, with particular emphasis on Cuba and Africa. Nothing was said to the two told reporters. No one knew that this was in accordance with orders given Mr. Dulles by President Eisenhower."

"Second: Nixon had started the initiative on the Cuban missile with his Miami statement, being a quarantine against Cuba in '62. In the best coordination of the campaign, the agency had followed with him putting this into effect."

"IT SEEMED obvious," Mr. Kennedy was never asked after realizing he had a point at a crucial moment in the campaign, was struck with secret material he had been given at the Dulles briefing. The House was querulous, told Mr. Kennedy, and informed about the secret. Others told us that Mr. Dulles, however, was angry over the disclosure.

"In the light of what I know of happenings at that time, I, of course, surprised last week Mr. Dulles' statement which corroborates President Kennedy's position that he was not involved in the troon training."

In a statement, Mr. Dulles said, "I have been fully brief on the situation. They are not my own, and I am not responsible for them."